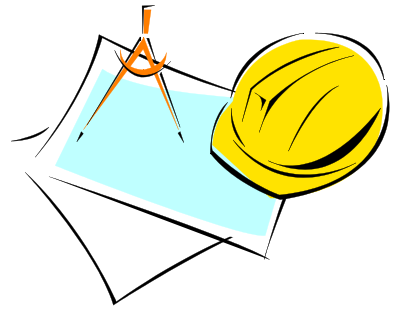


# Report Introduction

Sound public infrastructure planning and financing is key to sustaining growth and to maintaining the long term viability of our community.

Without effective basic public infrastructure in place, our community can't offer our present and prospective residents the fundamental health, safety, and quality of life services needed to maintain daily urban activities. As discussed further in this report, the continued efficient and timely provision of water, wastewater, roads, stormwater, and parks infrastructure are all considered essential to Lincoln's future.

The purpose of this report is to present to the community the findings and recommendations of the Mayor's Infrastructure Finance Committee (MIFC) and three working groups. These conclusions constitute the outcome of an extensive seven month process involving dozens of local residents.



This report's recommendations are intended to guide the Mayor and City Council in their deliberations on how best to address Lincoln's long term infrastructure needs.

The Committee's recommendations address a package of financing, service efficiency, and legislation actions designed to meet Lincoln's infrastructure requirements over the next 12 years.

This process began with the realization that Lincoln faces a bona fide and serious challenge in both maintaining and expanding its system of public infrastructure.

The adoption of a 25-year Comprehensive Plan for the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County in May of 2002 advanced an ambitious vision for our community. The Plan sees a future with continued population growth and urban expansion over the next several decades. (The Plan can be view on-line at the Planning Department's website at <http://interlinc.ci.lincoln.ne.us/>.)

The Comprehensive Plan clearly articulates the belief that urban growth must not undermine the community's present investment in existing neighborhoods and the public infrastructure supporting them. The roads and parks in our established areas must be maintained at a quality level; the water



and wastewater systems must continue to function appropriately to serve the needs of these areas; and the stormwater issues of these areas must be properly managed. These ideals are embodied in the recommendations of the Committee.

The balance of this report lays out the process used to formulate the Committee's recommendations, the main areas of common understanding the Committee has agreed upon regarding the policy and financing approaches to be used in the future, and the detailed recommendations for immediate and near term implementation. The report is divided into the following chapters:

- " Process Overview
- " MIFC Preamble
- " Cost Savings and Efficiency
- " Finance
- " Legislation
- " Implementation
- " Appendix

